

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4490

ANSWERED ON:22.04.2002

SMUGGLING OF IDOLS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

RATNA SINGH

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of antique idols and archaeological remains smuggled out of the country;
- (b) the number of said items since retrieved and returned to the country; and
- (c) the measures the Government propose to take to bring back all the said smuggled items?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM & CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a),(b) & (c) It is difficult to obtain precise information in this regard. However, the Government has been taking action to retrieve the objects taken illegally out of the country whenever the instances have come to its notice within the ambit of the Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 and the UNESCO `Convention or the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property. During the last twentyfive years, Government have recovered the following art objects:

1. Stucco Heads, Nalanda (Bihar)
2. Two Sunga Pillars of 2nd Century B.C. Surajkund, Amin (Haryana)
3. Terracotta Yakshi, Tamluk, Midnapur District (West Bengal).
4. Nataraja, Tiruvilakkudi, Tanjore District (Tamil Nadu)
5. Nataraja, Sivapuram, Tanjore District (Tamil Nadu)
6. Nataraja, Pathur, Tanjore District (Tamil Nadu)
7. Image of Buddha, Bodh Gaya (Bihar)
8. Image of Krishnanjanma, Dhubela, Chhatrapur District (Madhya Pradesh)
9. Paintings, Chandigarh Museum (Chandigarh)
10. Terracotta figure, Bhitargoan (Uttar Pradesh).
11. Image of Lakulisa, Jageswar, Almora District (Uttaranchal)
12. Decorative wooden panels (7 Nos.), Rajasthan.